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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/765,234

01/26/2004

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JWC03-01

1754

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06/08/2007

EXAMINER

QIN, JIANCHUN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2837

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/08/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/765,234	CARLSON, JOSEPH W.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jianchun Qin	2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-29 and 39-43 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,30,32 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-16,31 and 34-38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 30, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imagawa (U. S. Pat. No. 5072642).

Regarding claim 1, Imagawa discloses a method of manufacturing a soundboard for a stringed musical instrument (Abstract; Fig. 2), said method comprising the steps of: fashioning a soundboard (Figs. 2 and 3) from at least one piece of lumber (col. 4, lines 11-13); and texturing at least one surface of the soundboard (col. 4, lines 23-39).

Regarding claim 30, Imagawa discloses a method of treating a wooden soundboard of a stringed musical instrument to enhance its resonance (Abstract; col. 7, lines 18-20), said method comprising the step of: texturing at least one surface of the soundboard (col. 4, lines 23-39).

Regarding claims 32 and 33, Imagawa discloses: wherein said at least one surface is textured with a random pattern irrespective of the location of earlywood and latewood grains (col. 7, lines 42-54); wherein said at least one surface is textured with a repeating relief pattern (col. 4, lines 23-39; col. 7, lines 42-54).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imagawa in view of Sider (U. S. Pat. No. 4031798) and Lucas (U. S. Pat. No. 6639135).

Imagawa discloses the subject matter discussed above. Imagawa further teaches: said lumber selected is soft woods such as spruce (col. 4, lines 11-13).

Imagawa does not mention explicitly: wherein the lumber selected is pine, cedar and quarter sawn.

Sider teaches a technique for making a wooden soundboard of stringed instruments, wherein the wood used for said soundboard is selected from soft woods such as pine and cedar (col. 3, lines 34-36).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Imagawa by having pine and cedar as the selected lumber, as taught by Sider, in order to make the soundboard which satisfies special tonal objectives (Sider, col. 3, lines 32-37).

Lucas discloses a technique for making a soundboard of stringed instrument, wherein said soundboard is made from at least one piece of lumber, and said lumber selected is quarter sawn (col. 1, lines 40-44; col. 6, lines 8-11).

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sider by having quarter sawn as the selected lumber, as taught by Lucas, in order to provide a lumber to make the soundboard which satisfies tonal objectives and also possesses a combination of strength and hardness (Lucas, col. 1, lines 32-44).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 3-16, 31 and 34-38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claims 17-29 and 39-43 are allowed.

***Reasons for Allowance***

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Please see Office action dated 02/08/2007 for reasons for allowance.

***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments received 05/14/07 with respect to claims 1, 2, 30, 32 and 33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 30, 32 and 33 are rejected as new prior art reference (U. S. Pat. No. 5072642 to Imagawa) has been found to teach, either individually or in combination with

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other cited prior art references, the claimed invention recited in these claims. Detailed response is given in sections 2 and 4 as set forth above in this Office action.

### ***Prior Art Citations***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1) Moon (KR 2002004285 A) is entitled "Method of forming pattern onto wood panel".

### ***Contact Information***

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jianchun Qin whose telephone number is (571) 272-5981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lincoln Donovan can be reached on (571) 272-1988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

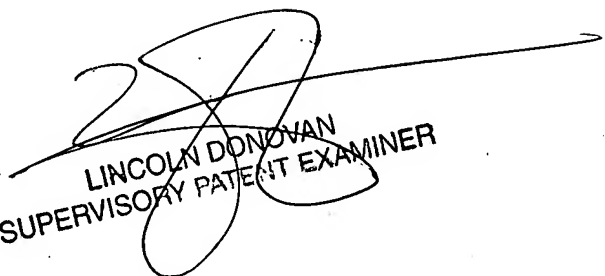
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jianchun Qin  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2837

JQ



LINCOLN DONOVAN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER